

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 16 and 18 – 30 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 3 – 16 and 18 – 30 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 3, 16 and 18 have been amended.

Claims 2 and 17 have been previously canceled. Claims 13 and 28 are canceled in this amendment.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 16 has been amended to clarify that insertion of the connector clip into the connector clip aperture, to a second position corresponding to a second distance is greater than the first distance (claim 1, lines 21 – 25). Support for this amendment is provided in prior claim 3 and in the drawings, particularly Figs. 8A and 8B. No new matter has been added.

Claims 3 and 18 has been amended to delete the requirement that the second distance be greater than the first distance since that subject matter has been added to claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 3-16, and 18-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the “partial” and “complete” insertion was not previously described in the specification.

The Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to paragraph 55 and FIGS. 6 and 8 of the present application, which describes the partial insertion occurring when the “clip 24 is inserted within the aperture 22 so that an upper portion of ridge 29 is advanced between inner walls 97 of sidewalls 91, 92 so that end 95 and end 96 follow side walls 39 of ridge 29 as connector clip 24 is advanced within aperture 24.” Complete insertion is then described as occurring

when "[t]he distance between ends 95 and 96 of sidewalls 91, 92 is then further increased as ends 95 and 96 are advanced along taper 33 of lower ridge 32 and further along side walls 40 of lower ridge 3 until connector clip is fully advanced within aperture 22 . . .". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the "partial" and "complete" insertion are described in the specification. However, in the interest of moving the application to allowance, the subject matter has been removed from claims 1 and 16. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

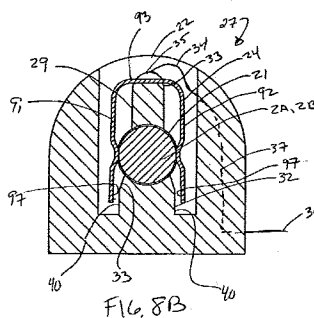
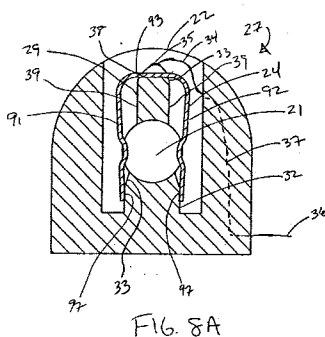
Claims 13 and 28 stand rejected 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 13 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 14, 16, 19, 20 22-24, 26, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,969 to Kuzma ("Kuzma"), and claims 1, 3-16 and 18-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,413,595 to Stutz, Jr. ("Stutz"). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 3-12, 14-16, 18-27 and 29 - 30, as amended, are patentably distinguishable from Kuzma and from Stutz and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Figures 8A and 8B, for example, illustrate, among other things, a housing portion forming a connector block having a connector clip aperture to receive a connector clip, and a first deflection portion spanning across the connector clip aperture and fitting between free ends of a first arm and a second arm of the connector clip upon insertion of the connector clip within the connector clip aperture, the first deflection portion causing the connector clip to deflect from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the

second arm upon insertion of the connector clip into the connector clip aperture, to a second position corresponding to a second distance, greater than the first distance, between the first arm and the second arm. See claim 1, lines 16 – 25; and claim 16, lines 15 – 24.



Kuzma teaches an output bracket 10, a receiver 20 made from a soft polymer, and a clamp 30 that is inserted over the receiver 20 so that the sides 31 of the clamp 30 press the sides of the receiver 20 against the wall of the output bracket 10 where contacts 10 are located to assure proper electrical contact. (column 5, lines 16-24).

Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner's consideration of the receiver 20 in Kuzma as being a connector clip aperture is in error, since the receiver 20 is a solid member and therefore by definition cannot be an aperture, i.e., a hole. The receiver 20 does form a channel 24 for receiving the output bracket but this channel 24 does not receive the connector clip. Therefore, for at least this reason, the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Kuzma. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Kuzma does not show an aperture as providing "provide side access to the channel and receive the U-shaped connector clip with the free ends of the arms extending perpendicular to the central axis as the connector clip is positioned within the channel via the connector clip aperture" (see claim 1, lines 9 – 15; and claim 16, lines 12 – 14).

Stutz teaches a forked clip 56 having prongs 80 and 82 that engage against a beveled washer 54. As the forked clip 56 is inserted within a slot 58, the compressive force of the prongs 80 and 82 progressing down a beveled surface 78 of the washer 54 forces the washer 54 toward a seal 52, thereby forcing the seal 52 to expand radially. Since the forked clip 56 is designed to generate a compressive force on the seal 52, the prongs 80 and 82 are prevented from being deflected outward away from the washer by the walls of the slot 58. Therefore, Stutz does not teach a first deflection portion fitting between free ends of the first arm and the second arm upon insertion of the connector clip within the connector clip aperture and causing the connector clip to deflect from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm upon insertion of the connector clip into the connector clip aperture, to a second position corresponding to a second distance greater than the first distance between the first arm and the second arm, as set forth in the claims of the present invention (see claim 1, lines 16 – 25; and claim 16, lines 15 – 24).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 16 are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-12, 14-15 are dependent upon claim 1 and claims 18-27 and 29 – 30 are dependent upon claim 16 and, as such, contain all of the subject matter of the claim(s) from which they depend. Thus, claims 3-12, 14-15, 18-27 and 29 – 30 should be allowable under the same reasoning provided above with respect to claims 1 and 16. Further, each of claims 3-12, 14-15, 18-27 and 29 – 30 contains additional patentably distinct subject and each such claim should also be allowable due solely to this additional subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 3-12, 14-15, 18-27 and 29 – 30 are also improper and should be withdrawn.

Provisional Rejections

The provisional rejections of the claims on the basis of the judicially created obviousness typed double patenting based upon Application Nos. 10/632,058 and 10/632,026 are noted. Both of those applications are still pending, and claims have not yet been allowed in either case. Therefore, response to the provisional rejections is not necessary at this time.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-16, 18-27 and 29 – 30 should be allowable, this application should be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.


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Respectfully submitted,

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